Suicides in rural areas

264. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of causes of suicidal deaths among the farmers in the rural areas of the country;

(b) the details of special packages already implemented and proposed to be implemented for the benefit of the farmers in the rural areas to avoid suicidal deaths; and

(c) the details of monetary and other relief measures already provided to the bereaved families of farmers who died due to suicides, State-wise and district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The major causes attributed by the State Governments for committing suicide by farmers are crop failure, indebtedness, drought, and social and economic insecurity.

(b) The Government of India has recently approved a rehabilitation package for 31 suicide prone Districts in the four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Kerala, involving a total amount of Rs. 16978.69 crore. The package aims at establishing a sustainable and viable farming and livelihood support system through debt relief to farmers, improved supply of institutional credit, crop centric approach to agriculture, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better extension and farming support services, improved marketing facilities and subsidiary income opportunities through horticulture, livestock, dairying, fisheries etc.

(c) The Prime Minister during his visit to the State of Andhra Pradesh in 2004 had announced an amount of Rs. 50,000/- each for 150 affected families in the State as a one-time measure from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka are giving an ex-gratia amount of Rs. one lakh and the State Government of Kerala Rs. 50,000 to the family of the deceased farmer in all eligible cases.